

## THE DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER Editor

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

All communications relating to news and editorial matter should be addressed to the Editorial Department.

## BUSINESS LETTERS.

All business letters and remittances should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha, Nebraska, and payment of postage to be made payable to the order of the company.

The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietors

## THE BEE BUILDING.

SWORN STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION.

State of Nebraska, Issued by the Secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, does solemnly swear that the actual circulation of THE DAILY BEE for the week ending March 5, 1891 was as follows:

Sunday, March 1, 27,305

Monday, March 2, 24,125

Tuesday, March 3, 24,125

Wednesday, March 4, 24,125

Thursday, March 5, 24,125

Friday, March 6, 24,125

Saturday, March 7, 24,125

Averagae, 24,142

GEORGE B. TSCHECH, Ch.

Sworn before me and subscribed to my

N. P. FETT,

Notary Public.

State of Nebraska, Issued by the Secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, does solemnly swear that he is secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, that the actual average daily circulation of THE DAILY BEE for the month of January, 1890, 20,534 copies; for February, 1890, 20,534 copies; for March, 1890, 20,534 copies; for April, 1890, 20,534 copies; for May, 1890, 20,534 copies; for June, 1890, 20,534 copies; for July, 1890, 20,534 copies; for August, 1890, 20,534 copies; for September, 1890, 20,534 copies; for October, 1890, 20,534 copies; for November, 1890, 20,534 copies; for December, 1890, 20,534 copies; for January, 1891, 20,534 copies; for February, 1891, 20,534 copies.

GEORGE B. TSCHECH,  
Sworn to before me and subscribed to my

N. P. FETT,

Notary Public.

THE iron trust is now without a competitor worthy of its steel.

THE state lumber trust is distinguished for the timbre of its tones.

PEACE reigns on the Pappo, notwithstanding the activity of the pluggers.

FOR A VIRTUOUS ERA OF REFORM THE LEGISLATURE AT LINCOLN PRESENTS RATHER A SORRY PICTURE.

A RIGID SCRUTINY OF APPROPRIATIONS IS THE PRESSING DUTY OF EVERY WATCHDOG OF THE STATE TREASURY.

THE ELECTION OF GENERAL PALMER STRENGTHENS THE DEMAND FOR THE ELECTION OF SENATORS BY POPULAR VOTE.

CALIFORNIA IS THE TWENTY-FIRST STATE, AND THE SEVENTEENTH CONTROLLED BY REPUBLICANS, TO ENACT BULLET REFORM.

IT IS BARELY POSSIBLE THAT MR. WILEY WILL COMPLETE HIS REVISION OF THE ELECTRIC ORDINANCE BEFORE THE DECEMBER MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN.

THE EXACT CENTER OF THE BLIZZARD BELT NOW RESTS BETWEEN NEW YORK AND LONDON, WITH THE ODDS SLIGHTLY IN FAVOR OF THE BRITISH METROPOLIS.

BEN BUTLER PREDICTS ANOTHER WAR AND INTIMATES THAT HE IS READY TO VOLUNTEER AGAIN AS A MAJOR GENERAL. IS BEN SHOTTING SHORT OF SPOONS?

TWENTY-FIVE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE ARE SUFFERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF DRAWS. PROBABLY THEY WERE PRESENTED PREMATURELY.

IN THE LIGHT OF LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATION INTO THE OPERATIONS OF PROHIBITION IN KANSAS, IT IS CLEAR THE HALF-HAD NOT BEEN TOLD BY NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS.

IF GENERAL PALMER SHOWS IN THE SENATE A FRAGMENT OF THE ENERGY DISPLAYED IN SEEKING OFFICE, THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS WILL HAVE SUBSTANTIAL REASONS FOR THANKFULNESS.

THE REPORT OF ABANDONED FARMS IN MASSACHUSETTS IS A TRIBUTE TO THE INTELLIGENCE OF THE FARMERS WHO FORSOOK A HABE EXISTENCE IN THE EAST FOR A COMPETENCE IN THE WEST.

THE REPORT OF THE NEW YORK POLICE RAISING \$75,000 FOR LOBBY PURPOSES IS AN UNJUST REACTION ON THE DENSE. "PUTTING UP" IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN AMONG PROFESSIONAL "KNOCK-DOWNS."

THE EPIDEMIC OF RETRENCHMENT AMONG WESTERN RAILROADS BROKE OUT JUST AT THE TIME OF THE SPHEROPERIC LEGISLATURES. GRAPPLING WITH RATE PROBLEMS. THE COINCIDENT IS SUGGESTIVE.

THE PROJECTORS OF THE GULF ROAD HAVE QUIT COQUETING AND KNUCKLED DOWN TO THE WORK OF SURVEYING. THE EVIDENCE OF BUSINESS ENERGY IS AN ABSOLUTE CHANGE FROM YEARS OF TALK AND THREATS.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SATISFY SOME MEN. DESPITE THE DECORATION OF THE CITY HALL WITH LIFE-SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALBERMARLE RUMS IN RELIEF, THE OWNERS INSIST ON HAVING THEIR AUTOGRAPHS CUT BEHIND. A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL WISHLY SQUEEZED THE PROPOSITION.

THE SENATORIAL CAMPAIGN IN SACRAMENTO HAS LOST MUCH OF ITS ORIGINAL POMPADOUR. THE APPEARANCE OF A DOZEN DETECTIVES ON THE SCENE PRODUCED A MARKED STRANGENESS IN MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, AND UNLESS THEY ARE WITHDRAWN AT AN EARLY DAY A FINANCIAL PANIC IS INEVITABLE.

THE KANSAS CITY LIVE STOCK EXCHANGE HAS BEGUN A VIGOROUS WAR ON THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STOCK FEEDERS WHO CLAIM THE RIGHT TO SELL THEIR OWN CATTLE IN OPEN MARKET. THE WAR IS BOUND TO END IN FAVOR OF THE MEN WHO CLAIM THE DIVINE RIGHT TO TRANSMIT THEIR OWN BUSINESS.

THE COUNTY SHOULD NOT APPROPRIATE ONE DOLLAR FOR WOOD PAVEMENT ON SOUTH TWENTY-FOURTH STREET. TO TAX THE PUBLIC FOR ANOTHER FOOT OF ROTEN PAVEMENT IS INEXCUSABLE. IF THE PROPERTY OWNERS ARE SUCH FOOLS AS TO INSIST ON WOOD BLOCKS, IN VIEW OF THE COSTLY EXPERIENCE OF THE CITY, THE COUNTY SHOULD WITHDRAW ITS OFFER TO PAY THE COST OF INTERSECTIONS.

## A.S.A.D. COMMENTARY.

The legislature is surrounded by a demoralizing atmosphere. The glimpses of efficiency and corrupt scheming presented to the people of Nebraska through leaves from a reporter's diary throw a certain light upon the men who have been entrusted with the lawmaking power of this state.

Never has a legislature assembled at the state capital from which more was expected, and never have people been more disappointed. Like all its predecessors this legislature is envenomed with a compact and unscrupulous lobby, which resorts to every device to entrap and entangle the vulnerable and weak.

That some would fall by the wayside might have been expected, but of all legislatures this body, controlled by the sturdy tillers of the soil, was believed to be beyond the reach of the hoodlum and the oil-room bummie.

The picture presented of the prevailing state of affairs at Lincoln cannot fail to arouse popular indignation.

## TEXT BOOK LEGISLATION.

The fine Italian hand of the school book lobby is visible in the proposed legislation at Lincoln. Two bills running at text book reform have been introduced, one in the senate and the other in the house. Both are said to have an enthusiastic following. Therefore, it is likely that both will be pushed and neither allowed to become a law.

The house bill provides that the school boards, when authorized by the majority of legal voters, may contract with publishers to furnish text books for a period not exceeding five years. It is stipulated that contracts shall be based on the lowest prices granted any wholesale dealer in the United States, and that any publisher who enters a combination to raise prices shall thereby forfeit his contract.

The senate bill contains similar provisions, except that it vests authority to select books in the teachers of each county, who shall choose a committee of seven from their own number for that purpose.

Neither of these measures fully meets the demand for reform in this direction, though, perhaps, either would be an improvement upon the loose system now in vogue. The chief virtue of the proposed measure is that they would secure uniformity and some degree of permanence in the selection of books.

Very little is to be expected in the way of economy in the new arrangement, if either of these bills is passed. The main object of the popular demand for text book reform is to break the power of the school book trust. Both of these bills are curiously calculated to defeat this object, and their alleged provisions to the contrary are mere sounding phrases.

The "lowest wholesale price" is, of course, the standard price fixed by the book trust. The dire threat of forfeiture of contract if "the publisher, after complying with the provisions of this act, shall enter a combination to raise prices" is equally empty. The combination already exists in a very flourishing condition.

Evidently the schoolbooklobby knows its business. It has provided for the probable defeat of all legislation on the subject, but if a bill is passed it is certain to be of a harmless character.

## LATEST PHASE OF THE SEAL DISPUTE.

The communication of Lord Salisbury dated a month ago, in reply to the dispatch of Secretary Blaine of last December, relative to the Behring sea controversy, appears to be regarded in Washington as giving a more favorable aspect to the negotiations. It does this so far as it is a renewal on the part of the British government of an expression of willingness to join with the government of the United States in seeking by means of arbitration an adjustment of the international questions in dispute, but there is no important concession made that can be regarded as simplifying the controversy, and certainly none that surrenders any vital part of the British contention. It is not easy to see, therefore, in what material respect the communication of Lord Salisbury gives a more favorable turn to the negotiations.

General Palmer will undoubtedly be a notable figure in the national senate. He is a man of ability, and of that aggressive nature which everywhere commands attention. He has not always been a democrat. When the republican party was organized he identified himself with it and fought under its banner for many years. He was indeed to that party for political dislocation, having been elected by it governor of Illinois. But for nearly twenty years past he has been trained with the democracy, accepting and advancing the most radical principles of that party, and the reward he has now received has been well earned.

The battle was finally and honorably conducted to the end, and the successful candidate will go to the senate with a clean and unassalable record so far as his fight for this position is concerned.

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The prompt and decisive action of General Palmer in the Senate of South Dakota is a tribute to the intelligence of the farmers' association which he headed; there was no chance of electing a republican.

Throughout the fight the democrats presented a solid column for their candidate, and yet both have now put irrigation on a firm legal basis and have already begun to solicit the aid of capital in this feature of their development.

The interest in the subject in Kansas was strikingly shown by the fact that no less than nine different bills, proceeding from as many different sources, were presented for the consideration of the legislature.

The measure which was adopted is twice as voluminous as the bill now pending in Nebraska. It is mainly derived from the new Colorado law and is admirably calculated to encourage investment, while guarding the interest of the people in the water supply.

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The strength of the several parties in the senate can not be definitely stated. They will stand: Republicans 47, democrats 33.

## A SELF-CONVICTED IMPOSTER.

Liars and impostors ought to have a good memory. The tale which the *World-Herald* prints to bolster up its fraudulent claims and bogus circulation convicts that conceit of playing a systematic confidence game on its advertising patrons.In July, 1889, the *W.-H.* claimed a circulation of over 16,000. A few weeks later they announced with a grand flourish of trumpets that the mammoth consolidated was booming beyond all precedent and had increased its circulation more than 30 percent.

In January, 1890, another increase of

he awaited with more than ordinary interest. It will probably determine whether our government is prepared to proceed to arbitration on the terms proposed by the British government. It is undoubtedly the very general feeling that it is desirable to seek an adjustment of the dispute in this way, and the government of the United States is now put in a position where to reject arbitration would be pretty certain to place it at a disadvantage in the opinion of the world and to justify with opinion the British government to maintain the rights which it claims for its subjects in Behring sea.

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## THE ASSESSMENT PARADE.

Preparations for the annual descent of the tax assessor are progressing favorably. In less than three weeks he will be abroad in the land clothed with abominable authority and a 33 smile.

The yearly pilgrimage of the tax assessor in this section brings into bold relief the utter inefficiency of the revenue law of the state. Designed to make all property bear a proportionate share of the public burdens, it is the most effective incentive to tax-shirking on record.

The law clothes the assessor with practically absolute power in the matter of valuations.

There is little or no relief from his judgment or want of judgment.

Court decisions make him monarch of all surveys and bonds of equalization.

The valuations of the assessor must stand unless the victims of discrimination appeal for trial.

The vital objection to the present method of assessment is that electors pay little or no attention to the qualifications of candidates for assessor, and the result is that a most important public duty, requiring thorough knowledge of values, descends to the level of a farce.

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